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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

SILVER JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS

Fourth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-22 April 1983

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

SILVER JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS

Eighteenth session of the Commission and ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27 April-3 May 1983

MEDIUM-TERM PLAN, 1984-1989

Note by the secretariat

The attached section of the medium-term plan relating to the resources of the sea represents the revised version of an earlier text which was presented in document E/CN.14/806-E/CN.14/TPCW/II/23 to the sixteenth session of the Commission - seventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers through the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole at Freetown, Sierra Leone in 1981.

This reformulated version of the programmed activities was recommended by the Committee for Programme Co-ordination (CPC) at its twenty-second session in the light of the decisions of the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in April 1982.

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MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 1984-1989

Corrigendum

PROGRAMME 3: NATURAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA

SUBPROGRAMME 4: RESOURCES OF THE SEA

(a) Legislative authority

17.83 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is General Assembly resolutions 33/193, 2692 (XXV), 34/20, ECA Conference of Ministers' resolutions 332 (XIV) and 340 (XIV), and resolution of the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, A/CONF.62/120, and UN document A/37/561 on responsibilities of the Secretary-General as a consequence of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

(b) Objectives

17.84 The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) Intergovernmental objective: The optimized development of capabilities for exploration, exploitation, development and management of the living and non-living resources of the sea in furtherance of the self-reliant and self-sustaining socio-economic development of Africa, and acquisition of sovereignty and jurisdiction over their territorial seas, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf as well as creation of awareness of the opportunities in the application of the Convention of the Law of the Sea.

(ii) General objective of the Secretariat: To assist member States to identify the opportunities and possibilities in the applications of the provisions of the recently adopted Convention on the Law of the Sea as well as in the development of their capabilities for the exploration, exploitation, development, utilization and management of the marine resources including those of coastal areas for their social and economic development, through provision of information on existing national, sub-regional, regional and global programmes of technical co-operation on marine scientific research, training and surveillance of maritime areas.

(c) Problem addressed

17.85 The oceans and seas surrounding the continent of Africa are rich in living as well as non-living resources such as fish, petroleum and metallic and industrial minerals. However, most African countries have neither capabilities, either in manpower or institutions, for exploration, exploitation and management of these resources nor adequate national or multinational policies for their

development and management. As a result of this situation, not many member Governments are taking steps to identify opportunities in the application of the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

(d) Strategy for the period 1984-1989

17.86 By the end of 1983 some preliminary work on the survey of national legislation and capabilities for exploration, exploitation, development and utilization of marine resources will have been started. Preparatory assistance will have been given to member States and multinational institutions on the management of the resources and on the establishment of machinery for co-ordinating programmes or activities.

In the period 1984-1989, the preliminary activities will be intensified with a view to laying firm foundation for co-operative arrangements for harmonizing policies, programmes and legislation, through intergovernmental meetings and African regional meetings related to the activities of the International Sea-Bed Authority. In co-operation with the science and technology programme, assistance will be given to member States and intergovernmental institutions in supporting their training and research programmes.

In particular, it is planned to organize training seminars, workshops, study tours and field missions as means of strengthening national, multinational and regional institutions in the development of capabilities for the exploration, exploitation, development and utilization of the resources of the sea. Assistance will also be given in the building of inventories of the resources and in the provision of information regarding the existing national, subregional, regional and global programmes of technical co-operation in the areas of marine scientific research and surveillance of marine areas.

By the end of 1989, it is envisaged that a regional network of training and research institutions in biological oceanography, chemical oceanography, physical oceanography, marine geology and ocean engineering will have been established. Preliminary studies on the establishment of national and multinational institutions for the development of marine science and technology, will have been carried out.